

Appl. No. 09/874,074

Amdt. Dated July 28th, 2004

Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2004

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed May 5, 2004 (Paper No. 3). Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 2-6, 8-12 are pending in this application, with Claims 3, 6, 9, 11 and 12 being the independent claims. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12, have been amended, and Claims 1 and 7 have been canceled. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Claim Objections

In the office action, claims 3-4, 6 and 9-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants have amended claims 3, 6, 9, 11 and 12, rewriting these claims in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 3, 6, 9, 11 and 12 are allowable. Furthermore, as claims 2, 4 and 5 all depend from, and include all the limitations of allowable independent claim 3, they are submitted to be allowable. Furthermore, as claims 8 and 10 depend from, and include all the limitations of allowable claim 9, they are also submitted to be patentably distinct.

Conclusion

In summary, and in view of the amendments herein, none of the references cited by the Examiner nor any other known prior art, either alone or in combination, disclose the unique combination of features disclosed in applicant's claims presently on file. For this reason, allowance of all of applicant's claims is respectfully solicited.

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The amendments herein added 2 new independent claims. Please charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 \$172.00 to cover the additional independent claim fee.

If any fees, including extension of time fees or additional claims fees, are due as a result of this response, please charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091. This authorization is intended to act as a constructive petition for an extension of time, should an extension of time be needed as a result of this response. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: July 28th, 2004

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